THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SYED SIBTEY RAZI): Now it is 5 o'clock. You will keep continuing in the next session.

Now, we take up another business — Statutory Resolution disapproving of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (Transfer of Undertaking and Repeal) Ordinance, 1993 and the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (Transfer of Undertaking and Repeal) Bill, 1993. The discussion on the Statutory Resolution was continuing. So, we continue with it. Shri Chimanbhai Mehta.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I was permitted by the Chair to refer to the issue of implementation of schemes on reservations for backward castes in Government service, soon after the Question Hour today. For a variety of reasons I could not refer to it. Will you kindly permit us to raise it, because today is the last day?

विपक्ष के नेता (श्री सिकन्दर बख्त) : सदर साहब, ह लोगों ने पहले भी बात की है। मैंने सुबह ही इजाजत चेयरमेन साहब से ले ली थी। ...(व्यवधान)... इजाजत मुझे चेयरमेन साहब दे चुके है।

SHRI P. UPENDRA (Andhra Pradesh): Why don't you take up the 'zero hour' and the Special Mentions first?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SYED SIBTEY RAZI): Zero hour is a zero hour. That hour has passed. So, we cannot take up the business the timing for which has already expired.

Now, I have taken up the business according to the scheduled agenda and I have identified Mr. Mehta. This is a very important piece of legislation.

†[ ] *Transliteration in Arabic Script.*

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Sir, we can first take up the zero hour.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SYED SIBTEY RAZI): If we take up the zero hour business, it would not be possible to continue. So, I request the hon. Members to cooperate and help us to dispose of this legislative business.

SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI (Gujarat): Sir, a point which concerns the privilege of the House, I was permitted to raise, but the House was adjourned. (*Interruptions*). It is a question of the privilege of the House.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SYED SIBTEY RAZI): That is true. I agreen with you. I am not permitting you. (*Interruptions*). Without the permission of the Chair please do not take the floor.

Mr. Mehta, please continue.

I. STATUTORY RESOLUTION SEEKING DISAPPROVAL OF THE OIL AND NATURAL GAS COMMISSION (TRANSFER OF UNDERTAKING AND REPEAL) ORDINANCE, 1993.

II. THE OIL AND NATURAL GAS COMMISSION (TRANSFER OF UNDERTAKING AND REPEAL) BILL, 1993

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA (Gujarat): Yesterday I posed a question as to what is the need for transferring this undertaking into a company. What would be the benefits out of it? I was requesting the hon. Minister to give some idea as to why he was going in for company conversion. The ONGC has been making profits for the last several years. It has been making profit to the tune of around Rs. 2,000 crores every year. In 1989-90 its profit was around Rs. 2,900 crores. Now, I find, not in this Bill, that its liabilities come to around Rs. 9,000 crores. If you are earning for so many years roughly around Rs. 2,300 crores, what is the reason for this liability? Why did you not repay? If you have not repaid and taken more loans, what is your asset?

In that case it should be a very high figure. I know among the profit-making companies of the Government of India, the ONGC contributed 60 per cent of its net profit. If you take only the manufacturing sector, then, the ONGC has contributed 87 per cent of the profit in total of the Government of India's profit-making undertakings. It is such a huge public sector undertaking. It is the biggest public sector undertaking. Now you are converting it into a corporation. You should have given us some idea as to what exactly are its assets. On the 23rd July, the Chairman of the ONGC Mr. Mangli, has said its assets are around Rs. 10,000 crores. This was the statement he has made. After converting it into a corporation, they want to expand it. His projection was that the equity base should be expanded to Rs. 4000 to Rs. 5000 crores. How will they expand it? With 20 per cent disinvestment, are they going to expand it and collect Rs. 4000 or Rs. 5000 crores? This is also a very important point. Therefore, I request you to kindly give us an idea of the modalities of the disinvestment.

When Shri Manmohanji came with the disinvestment proposal, I referred to...

SHRI JAGESH DESAI (Maharashtra): By disinvestment they will not get any amount. It will go to the Government.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: I know. At that time also I pointed out that Parliament should have been consulted about the modalities. Now this is the biggest public sector undertaking. Therefore, when you disinvest its shares, you should come before the Parliament and give us an idea about the modalities of the disinvestment. You take the Parliament into confidence.

They want to raise an authorised tal of Rs. 15,000 crores. I am not ting to this part also. But the de- of this particular account should be to us. This is my main request.

y, why are you converting ONGC corporation? Because you want more resources. I know a big giant company, the Chinese National Corporation of Oil is much bigger than the ONGC. They are also going in for privatisation because the requirement of petroleum products are increasing the requirement of the natural gas are increasing. Our resources are not able to match with our demand. Therefore, you are having the widest base of mobilisation. I can understand it. But another aspect of the corporation is it should be accountable to the shareholders. The transperancy should begin from the day the company is converted into a corporation. Therefore, the modalities of disinvestment should be made available to the House.

My question is: What is going to be the role of Parliament after the ONGC is converted into a corporation? Would I be permitted to ask a question about the Natural Gas Corporation Limited as to what are they are doing, what their profits are and what their losses are?

Once the ONGC is converted into a corporation, what will happen? ONGC was also created by an Act of Parliament. Now the Natural Gas Corporation Limited is also going to be created by an Act of Parliament. But please tell us about the implications of this, because in the past we were able to discuss about the ONGC. I had raised a question about the liabilities. There is no doubt that the ONGC has made a very good profit. But the ONGC is suffering from corruption. Recently a retired Chairman of the ONGC had joined a private company. This matter is before the JPC because some money from the ONGC was given on loan to a bank. Then, ultimately it went to a private company. This is the record. Now what about Essar? The name of Essar is well known. Yesterday, a news item appeared in "The Times of India" that this company was misusing the bill discounting facility. I know, one of the companies established in Gujarat, bought machinery from Germany at Rs. 15 crores and ultimately, they paid Rs. 10 crores. A buffer company was created. I had drawn your attention at that time also. These are the people who are the

[Shri ChimanBhai Mehta]

contractors. Now, the ONGC is going to be a company. You can understand bureaucrats handling contracts. (*Interruptions*)...Chairman of the India'n Oil Corporation. Yesterday, I read in the newspapers that another important functionary also has gone out of the department. Now, therefore, you have to be very careful. Then, once the ONGC becomes a company, it will have contracts with multinationals. Two days back, the Gujarat High Court had rejected the plea of Topse, a collaborator of Snamprogetti. The Gujarat State Fertilizer Corporation wanted to use another technology, the Linde technology. They went to the High Court. But the High Court rejected the plea of the Topse company. We can discuss all these things when we are in Parliament. Once it becomes a company, what will be the position? Afterwards, to what extent will you be accountable to us?

Now, I have already said that you do require more capital. Therefore, expansion is necessary. The State cannot provide you all the funds required for expansion. Therefore, if you are going to be a company, it is welcome. But, in the past, gas was flared up in the Bombay High. It went on for 20 years. Now they have worked out a scheme which will cost Rs. 8,000 crores. But this spending of Rs. 8,000 crores would give you fifty per cent more gas than what is available today. Had that been done earlier, we would not have lost Rs. 2,000 crores a year by flaring gas. If you calculate the loss for two decades, what loss has occurred! Therefore, kindly consider all these aspects. I am happy that this Gas-Flaring Reduction Project has come about. By about 1996, with this dynamic Minister, I suppose, it will be completed and I hope he will continue till that time.

Coming to another point, we know that the current gas supply is not to the requirement. It is hardly 15 per cent of the requirement. They are supplying, at the moment, 38 MMSCMD. The registered demand is for six and a half times that, that is, 260 MMSCMD. Now, by the end of the Eighth Plan, they would not be able to supply even to the subscribers committed. They would go up to 80 MMSCMD. They have already committed 90 MMSCMD and their registered demand is 260 MMSCMD. Therefore, I do believe that you should go for expansion. Basically, there is nothing wrong in the term 'company'. The point is this. Our discovered reserve, total, was 1467 billion... (*Interruptions*).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SYED SIBTEY RAZI): Mr. Mehta, you have already taken about 15 minutes. May I request you to conclude within two, three minutes?

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Right, Sir. Now, we have got half of that quantity. At the rate at which we are exploiting the gas, if we are not able to discover new areas, gas supply would stop totally after 25 years. Therefore, new areas have to be explored and for that purpose, a huge capital is required, billions of rupees are required. You are going in for the internaitonal gas pipeline with Oman and Qatar. That is good. The feasibility report is being studied. The sooner it is done, the better it will be. The task of managing demand and supply is a complex task and you are not able to fulfil it because you do not have that much gas, I would like to remind you that Shri Rajiv Gandhi, the late Prime Minister, had committed that a Pipavan power station in Gujarat would be provided gas. That commitment continued for a long time because we used to ask questions in Parliament. The National Front Government had done the same thing. The same thing has been done afterwards also. But recently, I got a reply to my question that we should find out alternative fuel

Now, we cannot get gas from our o area, that is, Tapati gas field. We h to get coal from Dhanbad and Jharia. do not understand how correct it is know you are receiving a lot of dem but this was a commitment of late Rajiv Gandhi and since you have a been stating that Rajiv Gandhi com so and so, kindly consider this poi Now, within one minute, I am g

conclude. Sir, anyway, they have mentioned in the Bill that the interest of the workers would be protected. But I think the workers should have been consulted. There was a seminar in Ahmedabad. I also attended this seminar where trade unions were invited. I participated in that seminar as President of one of the trade unions. You see, there is a lot of resistance to the transformation into a company though so many workers do not know what exactly it means. I know that you have fully protected their rights. So far, so good. But they should be told about it because without their support, you cannot do anything. There are 48,000 workers. Kindly call a meeting and you yourself address that meeting. All the unions are meeting in Delhi on 1st and 2nd September, 1993. I invite the hon. Minister to come and tell us what exactly this means. The Minister should tell them that there is a better future for them. There is always a better future with the expansion and certainly, the Minister can commit on that point.

Now, I would like to know whether stock listing of the shares would be done. How will they be disposed of? If the Minister is able to satisfy me on all these points, I am going to press my Resolution and I would withdraw it. Kindly try to satisfy Parliament as to what you are going to do and also take this House into confidence. At the same time you should also keep the interest of the workers in mind. Thank you.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the transfer and vesting of the undertaking of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission to and in the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited, a company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto and also to repeal the Oil and Natural Gas Commission Act, 1959, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The Central Government had appointed a Committee on 24-1-1992 headed by Shri P. K. Kaul, IAS (Retd.), to examine all aspects of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission's existing organisation with a view to examine the need for its restructuring. The Committee submitted its First Report on 10-9-1992 and its Final Report on 15-11-1992. The recommendations of this Committee were considered by the Government. Based on the recommendations of this Committee, the Government had, *inter-alia*, approved on 1-2-1993 the proposal for conversion of Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) into a Public Limited Company under the Companies Act, 1956. This would enable ONGC to function more efficiently and give it greater flexibility in raising resources form the capital market and easier structural adjustments in response to needs. This would eventually enable the Company to perform better to meet its production targets.

The decision to convert the ONGC into a Public Limited Company was a conscious decision of the Government taking into account the requirements of the hydrocarbon sector and the need for ONGC to play a continued, important and dynamic role in the functioning of the petroleum sector in the years to come.

I would also like to draw attention to the fact that the ONGC is one of the premier Public Sector organisations in the country and the process of its conversion into a Public Limited Company required careful examination of the various issues. Apart from the fact that the decision involves transfer of assets worth over Rs. 10,000 crores, it also needs to be remembered that the future of as many as 48,000 employees is also tied with the decision to convert it into a Public Limited Company. Therefore, it had to be a considered decision keeping in mind various legal issues which had to be incorporated in the Bill. In view of the complex nature of the issues, much as we wanted to, we were unable to introduce the Bill during the last Session of Parliament.

[Capt. Satish Sharma]

After legal scrutiny and incorporation of adequate provisions to protect the interests of the employees of ONGC when the Bill was ready in June, 1993, Parliament was not in Session. I would at this juncture like to mention that conversion of the ONGC into a Corporaion is one among the several measures that we have introduced in the petroleum sector aimed at increasing indigenous production and decreasing dependence on imports in our effort to move towards self-sufficiency. To avoid further delay immediate action was necessary and since Parliament was not in Session, the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (Transfer of Undertaking and Repeal) Ordinance, 1993 (No. 28 of 1993) was promulgated by the President on 2.7.1993 for providing for the transfer and vesting of the assets, liabilities, obligations, officers and employees of the Commission to the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited, a Company registered on 28.6.1993 under the Companies Act, 1956, and for matter connected therewith or incidental thereto and also to repeal the Oil and Natural Gas Commission Act, 1959. The Ordinance empowers the Central Government to issue a notification appointing the date from which the assets, undertaking, liabilities and the officers and employees of the Commission shall stand transferred to and vest in the new Corporation.

A Bill called the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (Transfer of Undertaking and Repeal) Bill, 1993 to replace the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (Transfer of Undertaking and Repeal) Ordinance, 1993 (No. 28 of 1993) was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 30th July, 1993. After taking the Bill into consideration, the Lok Sabha passed the Bill on 23rd August, 1993.

Sir, I request this august House to kindly take the said Bill into consideration and pass the same.

The questions were proposed.

[**The Deputy Chairman** in the Chair]

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL (Bihar): Madam, I rise to talk about a subject which is of vital importance to India. I think one of the major achievements of our country is that we have entered into the oil field and at this particular moment my mind goes back to K. D. Malaviya. I think it was his vision and effort believed all those who had made India believe that India could neither find oil and soil nor could even distribute it and I think it was at that time that we turned the chapter and, therefore, we set up the ONGC. ONGC in today's context is one of the major companies not only in the country, but I think if you look at the 500 large companies and enterprises the world over, ONGC is one of them. Our three enterprises have found their place in the 500 companies and ONGC has a very important position in that category. The Committee has, I say with a great deal of... (*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Gujral sahib may I interrupt you in your chain of thoughts which are very useful? Today is a very lucky and auspicious day for us because the President has very kindly nominated 5 hon. Members to the 5 nominated seats of this House which were vacant and they would take oath at 6 o'clock.

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM (Uttar Pradesh): Have they entered the House?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: They have entered the House. That is why I have to interrupt Gujralsahib because when some new people enter the House somebody may ask who they are. So, before you ask, I felt I must let you know. They will take oath at 6 o'clock. Gujralsahib, you please continue. I am sorry.

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Madam, I was making a submission and I was saying that it was a good idea that the Kaul Committee was set up which had gone into the details and I have be-

fore me the very first report and the final report which make a more encouraging reading. I am glad that it has gone into depth when trying to examine as to what can be done to further restructure the oil sector that we have. The Committee's views, in a way, also draw our attention to some of the issues that are very important and, I think, we must know the projections of the Eighth Plan. I think it is very important for the Minister to keep this in mind because every time when the Eighth Plan is discussed here, we are made to believe as if we are going to become self-sufficient and, therefore, the charts are given and the figures are given by the hon. Minister and also by the Minister of Planning to give us a picture which is belied by the Committee itself. I quote the Committee report where it says:

> "In fact, it is the Committee's view that the projections of indigenous production as at the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan period appear highly optimistic and are unlikely to materialise given the current status of production and the prospects of new oilfields coming into production in the next three to four years. ONGC in particular and Oil India Limited, the other oil producing organisation in the country, therefore, face a critical challenge in reversing the downward trend in production evidenced during the last three years."

The Committee has also produced before us a 6-page chart and told us that it is really not possible and the shortfall is going to be serious and grave. I was hoping that when the Minister comes to this House and asks us to make a Bill or pass a law for converting the structure of the ONGC, he would discuss the oil sector in its totality. It is an unfortunate fact that at the end of the session we are being asked to pass a law or convert an Ordinance into a law without going into the details as to how vital this oil sector is. This rushing about making laws is a very unfortunate habit of the Government. They first issue an Ordinance and wait till the end of the session and then come and ask us in a hurry, in a matter of 15 minutes, to go through it. The picture that comes before me, Madam, is something which is vitally important. The ONGC's infrastructural activities are, therefore, at the moment, faced with a shortfall. The shortfall it going to be, as the Committee points out and I have no reason to believe that the figures are not correct, very serious. What 'shortfall' means in today's context is that we must find more foreign exchange, we must raise more loans and we must go to the IMF and the World Bank to find money for my hon. friend to buy more oil. I was listening to him with rapt attention when my hon. friend, Mr. Sharma, was giving us the figures and I was hoping that he would try to touch some other points which the Committee has made pertinent reference to. Shortfall is one of the things which I would like to discuss and I do hope even at this late moment, when the Parliament meets next time, the hon. Minister and you, Madam, will give us an opportunity to have a full discussion on oil itself. The difficulty, at the moment, is that only the ONGC's structure is being discussed. The structure cannot be divorced from the challenges before us. The structure cannot be divorced from the type of performance that we are expecting from them. The structure cannot be divorced from the new assignment which you are giving to them. I can say it with deep regret that the hon. Minister has failed to give us any hope on that count. The Committee has rightly pointed out that the ONGC structure, manpower, in-house activities are products of history. Yes, that is a proud history. But it has also endorsed that because of the resource crunch, because of the productivity not keeping pace with the international standards, because of the non-optimal use of assets, we have now come to a stage that organisationally we have to have a look at the whole thing and decide among ourselves as to what is called for. Here we are confronted with a paradox. The

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paradox is—I think my friends particularly from Gujarat would be interested in it— as the Committee has pertinently pointed out, the price paid for oil to the ONGC is far below the international price. If the Government does not pay adequate compensation to the ONGC for exploration, for drilling and for other things which it is doing the end result will be the crunch and the mode of crunch is the shortfall. Then the activities go down. On the one hand, States like Gujarat which produce oil, do not get adequate royalty for its goods and on the other hand, the ONGC is not able to meet its challenges. The Government has its own difficulties. I know a very patent reply can come from the Minister. When he replies he will say, "What can we do? The Government does not have money." Well, it is a very strange paradox. The Government finds money to import oil. The Government finds money to pay in foreign exchange. But the Government does not find enough money to give to the ONGC and the ONGC in turn does not find enough money to pay to the producing States. One of the difficulties of the Economic Policy is that...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gujral...

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Madam, are you giving me a hint to sit down?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, I am not disturbing you. The thing is Mr. V. C. Shukla has to make a statement on the Narmada Sarovar Project at 5.30 p.m. I said that let Mr. Gujral finish his speech and then we would ask Mr. Shukla to make his statement.

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Madam, I have got one difficulty.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I know that you have got a meeting at 6 p.m. You can finish your speech before 6 o'clock.

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Madam, at 6 p.m. I have got a meeting of the Standing Committee on Commerce where I have summoned witnesses from abroad.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I agree with it.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): Madam, what is the business that we are undertaking?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We are discussing the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (Transfer of Undertaking and Repeal) Bill, 1993 and Statutory Resolution.

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT: How much time will it take?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Two hours. It is written here.

गुजराल साहब आप अपना भाषण 6 बजे तक खत्म कर सकते है ।

SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL (Gujarat): Madam, at 5.30 p.m. the Minister has to make a Statement.

उपसभापति : आप डिस्टर्ब मत होइये, आप कम्पलीट कर दीजिए, फिर हो जायेगा ।... (व्यवधान)...इनकी बात पूरी हो जाय, इनका भाषण पूरा हो जाय । डिस्टरबेंस हो रही है । जरा पूरा कर लेने दीजिए ।

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJARAL: Madam, I was saying that the Committee's report has to be read very carefully. I had hoped that there would be enough copies of the report available for circulation. But to my regret I found only five copies available in the Library. With a great deal of difficulty I could get only one copy of the report.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: They should have circulated it to all the Members.

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJARAL: They have not circulated it. The difficulty at the moment is, the Committee has rightly pointed out that the over-centralisation of powers in the hands of the Government, on one side and the over-centralisation of bureaucratic con-

not on the other side have inhibited the functioning of the ONGC and have not enabled it to rise to its whole stature. That has been a problem of the entire public sector to whom we are trying to give a bad name. If you look at every good public sector undertaking the same story is repeated—over-bureaucratisation; all the powers are first given to the management, then it comes to Delhi and the Secretariat does not take a decision. The end result has been a very sad one. Unfortunately, instead of correcting our attitude, instead of correcting our policies, instead of correcting our system, we think it is better to get rid of the public sector itself. Therefore, in a way we are blaming the public sector by saying that it is not functioning. As the Committee points out and I quote, "Investment decisions are taken after a great delay. Had these been taken in time, production shortfalls currently experienced may not have occurred." I think responsibility sometimes should be fixed—who did not take a decision in time? Why decisions were not taken? Who was responsible for it? The misfortune in our functioning is this and this is something which our system must look at. Is it that nobody is responsible for these national losses? The nation keeps on functioning like this and then we merrily go on saying that this did not happen and therefore, we floundered. There was a Malaviya Committee. All the Committees that had been formed in the last 20 years or more have looked at these banes. Whatever is the sum total of the Kaul Committee has been said earlier by Malaviya also, 20 years ago. Two reviews that were held after that also pointed out the same thing. But unfortunately, Govern- it has come to a stage where we see ment did not take any action on it. Now no flexibility, as pointed out by the Committee. Therefore, the only decision that they have taken is, "Unless we make it a corporate body, nothing much can be done." I have nothing against a corporate body. But my apprehension is very serious. The environment in which we are living today, the type of atmosphere that is being created today, the way public sector is being denigrated, the way public sector is being given a bad name, I am afraid, sometimes making it a corporate body, is a way to try to privatise it. Once you get into privatisation, with the type of new economic policy, the new Messiah of today, what is being sold, the danger is that outside interests would try to come in. My real apprehension is that and I hope I am a false prophet. The danger is that a stage might come when valuable assets like the ONGC which had been built with a vision and by the far-sightedness of leaders like Nehru may one day go out into those hands that we do not want it to go into. We are seeing the fate of Russia. I am not going into those details as to what happened in Russia, how it happened and what were the reasons. But look at the attack on Russian oil. Look at all the multinationals going into Russia and also the ex-Soviet Union countries, the way they are trying to capture oil. The oil issue has two dimensions. One is, countries like Iraq, if they revolt, subdue it and if you cannot subdue it, then sabotage it. In a country like India, the single biggest danger is that those who did not want India to enter into the oil sector may now try to come in through the backdoor of privatisation. I would like to get a very categorical assurance from the Minister that under no circumstances will he face us with a *fait accompli* saying, "we came to a conclusion and a corporation was formed by an Act of Parliament and after that they sold shares and some shares were clandestinely passed on somewhere else and ultimately we find some people with 5 per cent and then 10 per cent, later on more capital is needed and one day we find that... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI E. BALANANDAN (Kerala): Then to 51 per cent.

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Fiftyone per cent is a very small figure. Pepsi has now 91 per cent. All those things you can possibly visualise happening in our country. Another dimension of the report I would like to point out. I do not endorse what the Committee has said. While talking of petroleum and the ONGC, the Committee first appreciated it. Then it has said—I

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quote, "The present position is that while the off-shore drilling, a major part of the work, is done by contract, other services like on-shore drilling, seismic data acquisition and cementation and the impact of contractual services are pretty minimal. The Committee knows that the ONGC has made a modest beginning. And it is the Committee's desire that it should be pursued further and contracts given. I want to raise my voice of protest against this aspect. Once you give a contract, once the company is made autonomous and you give them this mandate, what it would lead to is something which we have to be apprehensive about; this is something which we have to be cautious about. And as I was saying a little while ago about this foreign interest coming in, this will be their back-door entry and we may not be able to deal with this. The Report says that although the vision of the ONGC up till now is all right...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Your Shri Inder Kumar Gujral.

SHRI INDER KUMAR GURAL: Okay, I shall stop.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You complete the sentence. I don't want that you should stop in between your sentence.

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Madam, the ONGC has shown a remarkable vision but the continuity is not being promised by the Government. The Committee is recommending that their continuiy must be there. Autonomy is very useful and I am in favour of giving autonomy to the Corporation because that can help them. But we must also keep in mind the fact that the autonomy must not be transferred to other things. Regarding research and development, the Committee has rightly pointed out that a number of institutions that have been built over the years have done very well in this regard and, I think, this organisation, that is, the ONGC, has done remarkably well in the spheres of training and research and development and it is a commendable one. But, it has been suggested that a number of its subsidiaries should be made autonomous. I have no objection to it but at the same time it has been felt—I think that is where the danger is—that the company may not be able to manage or the Government may not be able to manage coordination between the different organisations. Another danger is that the CSIR, etc. may not come in. I totally endorse what the Committee has said that it should not be made a part of the CSIR—I am not going to discuss about the CSIR just now; at one stage, I was listing charges against that and I will not discuss them now. But I would caution that the system that the oil sector has built should be kept separate and, therefore, the type of system that we are thinking of should be kept in mind. The momentum that the oil sector has acquired in terms of in-built in-house research, in-house training, in-house R&D which is at par with many in the world is something which is of pride to us. That momentum must be sustained. One thing that worries me is the disinvestment that the Committee has recommended is a very old recommendation. The Committee says and I quote: The Committee has recommended that the initial disinvestment of 20 per cent equity capital of the three newly incorporated companies should be through the process of obtaining bids... (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gautam, let him finish his speech. I have got a lot of business.

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Madam, the Committee has recommended that at the initial stages,—I repeat 'initial stages'—20 per cent disinvestment should be done and that is the biggest danger that there is going to be a back-door entry. That is the intention of the Committee... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI E. BALANANDAN: The Committee is for that alone.

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Therefore, now, I would conclude by drawing the Minister's attention to one of the Journals—I do not know if he

reads this Journal—called the *Economist*. The latest issue has called it as "the greatest assets ever on sale." Greatest assets are being sold everywhere. Everywhere these are being sold but the editorial very wisely points out that what is good for the gander may not be good for the goose. Developing countries must guard against disinvestment. Developing countries must guard against privatisation. Unfortunately, an atmosphere has been created in this country where we are talking of privatisation without realising its pitfalls. I want the Minister to give an assurance that he will not allow privatisation; that this 20 per cent disinvestment will be first endorsed by Parliament because last time we have seen the way the public sector undertakings' shares were sold. There was a scam about it. But scam apart, the dangers are far more in the oil sector than elsewhere.

Thank you, Madam.

उपसभापति : शुक्ल जी आप का स्टेटमेंट है ।

The Chairman has permitted him to make a statement. But he said there would not be any clarifications... (*Interruptions*)... That is what the Chairman's direction was. That is what I have been told by the Secretary-General.

SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Give our right to seek clarifications.

SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL (Uttar Pradesh): Whenever there is a statement, there must be clarifications also.

...(*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Just a minute. Don't get agitated. Let me inform the House what has happened. One situation is different from another. The Chairman or someone—whoever was in the Chair—had permitted long, lengthy Special Mentions the day before yesterday, very long Special Mentions. There were certain points made on which the Members wanted clarifications. We requested Mr. Shukla to come and clarify. So, he has come to clarify the points. When he came to clarify on the points raised, you cannot have clarifications again on his clarification. Whatever I know I informed you. Now I have been clarified. So, I am clarifying to you.

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT: Even this clarification has not been circulated. It has got to be circulated.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): What is unusual is... (*Interruptions*)...

श्री एस०एस० अहलुवालिया (बिहार): यह तो राज्य सभा का एक अधिकार है ।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have no objection to anything because this is our tradition in this House... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: I want to ask one thing... (*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta, you know it is not concerning West Bengal. It is about Narmada... (*Interruptions*)... Mr. Ahluwalia, can there be any *bandh* before Narmada?... (*Interruptions*)... The question is about Narmada. There were some points on which clarification was sought by the Members. If there was time, we could have had a full-fledged discussion either in the form of a Calling Attention or a Short Duration. Because of paucity of time, it should not go by default. Members made their viewpoints on the floor of the House. Many Members were allowed long, lengthy Special Mentions the day before yesterday. That is why Mr. Shukla has come. Let him say what he wants to say.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Because we are not satisfied, we want to ask clarifications... (*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shall I repeat it again... in absolute silence? certain queries were raised by the Members while making their Special Mentions. In response to these queries, Mr. Shukla has come today to clarify.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: We should also be permitted to seek clarifications.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA (Karnataka): When a Minister makes a statement, seeking clarifications on it is a convention of this House.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Madam, I am on a point of order.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is that?

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: My point of order is that in Rajya Sabha, according to rules and practice, Members get an opportunity to ask for clarifications whenever a Minister makes a statement. This is the difference between the two Houses. Therefore, I would request you to kindly ensure that the rules of the House are not violated under any circumstances... (*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Das Gupta, I must tell you that it is not the rule, but it is the convention.

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT: Madam, this is the List of Business. It says, "Mr. V. C. Shukla to make a statement on the Narmada Sarovar Project. What is this?... (*Interruptions*)... You cannot change everything to suit the convenience of the Government... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI MD. SALM (West Bengal): It is a statement to be made by he Minister... (*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, Shuklaji.

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): Madam, as directed by the Chairman, I am making comprehensive clarifications... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL: Clarifications? Under what rule?... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Clarifications under what rule?... (*Interruptions*)...Under which rule, Madam?... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT: Then you circulate copies of the statement. That is the least that you could do... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Madam Deputy Chairman, you kindly clarify under what rule his statement is being made now. Clarifications can be made by the Minister only in response to a Calling-Attention Motion. If it is not there and if it is only a statement, then we are entitled to ask for clarifications ... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: We want copies of the statement... (*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You see, when Members raise certain queries, we try to answer their queires and We make efforts. The Chairman has made all efforts to ask Mr. Shukla to make a statement or offer clarifications. Whether you call it a statement or clarifications, some word has to be printed in the List of Business. Now, if there is a word like "comprehensive clarification", next time we will use it... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: There is no copy of the statement... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Madam, we only want our rights to be protected... (Interruptions).

श्री विट्ठलभाई मोतीराम पटेल : मैडम, हम को चांस नहीं दिया था बोलने के लिए। हमको देना पड़ेगा ।

श्री जगगेश देसाई: मैडम, मुझे भी चांस दीजिए ।

उपसभापति : बोलने तो दीजिए, चांस देंगे ।

श्री एस० एस० अहलूवालिया : मेडम मेरा पॉइंट ऑफ आर्डर है । मेडम, इस सप्लीमेंटरी एजेंडा में क्लिअरली लिखा हुआ है कि :

"Shri Vidya Charan Shukla to make a statement on the Narmada Sarovar Project."

उपसभापति : मैंने भी पढ़ा है ।

श्री एस०एस० अहलूवालिया : तो मैडम, यह गलती किसकी है ? मेरी सीधी सी बात है कि अगर स्टेटमेंट देने आए हैं और आपने जैसा बताया कि चेयरमेन ने ऐसा आदेश दिया है कि स्टेटमेंट होगा, क्वेरिफिकेशन नहीं होंगे, हम एक मिनिट के लिए आपकी बात मानते हैं, मगर स्टेटमेंट देने आए हैं तो उसकी कापियां कहां हैं । अंग्रेजी और हिंदी की कॉपी बंटती हैं और वह हरेक मेंबर को मिलती है, वह कापियां कहां हैं और बिना कापी दिए स्टेटमेंट कैसे पढा जा सकता है, यह बताने की कृपा करें ? इस पर आप रूलिंग दें । यह सेक्रेटेरिएट की गलती है ।

उपसभापति : यह सेक्रेटेरिएट की गलती नहीं है । देखिए सेक्रेटेरिएट की गलती नहीं है। आय एम सोरी अहलुवालिया जी, सेक्रेटेरिएट की गलती नहीं होती । जो मंत्री हाउस में स्टेटमेंट देना चाहते हैं, वह अपनी तरफ से कागज हिन्दी अंग्रेजी या जिस जुबान में होती है, लाते हैं । हमारी जिम्मेदारी है बंटवाने की ।

श्री सिकन्दर बख्त : तो मिनिस्टर साहब गलती करने पर क्यों आमादा हैं ?

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Madam, let the statement be referred by an hour and let it be prepared in English and Hindi and be distributed and, on that basis, we will proceed. On the basis of this oral statement, it will be difficult for us to seek clarifications... (*Interruptions*) ...

THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): Madam, the important business which, in fact, needs to be completed first will be the Ordinance which has been issued and which has to be converted into a Bill and the Appropriation Bills have to be passed, two Bills. These should get the precedence. Actually, the discussion started on the Ordinance also. But, thereafter, I specially requested Mr. Shukla to see whether he could have this possibly postponed so that these first two important items could be completed.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You can come later.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: All right.
(*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Tomorrow, we don't have the House.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर (उत्तर प्रदेश) : मैडम, यह आज का एजेण्डा मेरे पास है.:. **(व्यवधान)** . . .भाई, मेरी बात तो सुनिए । मैं दूसरे विषय पर बात कर रहा हूं ।

उपसभापति : माथुर साहब, एक विषय तो पूरा होने दीजिए ।

If the House agrees, I can ask Mr. Shukla to come after two hours.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes, yes.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: So, you come after two hours.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: With the prepared statement.

SHRI VISHVJIT P. SINGH (Maharashtra): Madam, if we are not going to seek clarifications, why do we need copies?
(*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You have arrived a little late. I am sorry, you are picking up the threads half way through. The complaint is that on a statement, there have to be clarifications. So, I am trying to settle that matter. Shuklaji, you can come a little later because we are going to sit late today. We have got a lot of business to finish. So, you can come a little later with the copies. We will have it a little later.

. . . **(व्यवधान)** . . .एक मिनट, उन्हें बोलने तो दीजिए या आप बोलने ही नहीं देते किसी को ।

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: I will do exactly, Madam, as you direct. If you want the copies to be circulated, we can just now try and make copies of the statement and try to have the Hindi translation of it. You kindly intimate the time when you expect me to come here.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Whatever time the House fixes. 8 o'clock? 9 o'clock? (*Interruptions*) All right 8.30.

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह (बिहार) : मैडम, एक बात कह दूं । दोनों भाषाओं में, हिन्दी में और अंग्रेजी में, अगर स्टेटमेंट की प्रति नहीं नहीं आई तो फिर मुश्किल हो जाएगी ।

उपसभापति : हां जी, दोनों भाषाओं में, वह खुद कह रहे हैं । शंकर दयाल जी, उन्होंने स्वयं यह बात कही है कि मैं हिन्दी और अंग्रेजी दोनों भाषाओं में ला रहा हूं । साढ़े आठ बजे ।

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: In the short time available to us, Madam, we will try to make copies and the translation. Both have to be made. So we will try and make it. But if there is some difficulty in doing it, then I hope the House will understand because we have only two hours to do all these things.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We will give you two and a half hours. No, let us have the Oath.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : मैडम, यह केवल स्टटमेंट का सवाल नहीं है, सरकार किस तरह से कार्य कर रही है, इससे स्पष्ट है । यह एप्रोप्रिएशन बिल नं० 3 और नंबर 4, आज सप्लीमेंटरी एजेण्डा करके तीसरे पहर बांट दिया गया। सरकार को मालूम है कि एप्रोप्रिएशन बिल होना चाहिए और हम भी चाहते हैं, लेकिन मैं इस बात को समझ नहीं सकता कि रेगुलर एजेण्डा में इसको क्यों नहीं दिया गया? यह सप्लीमेंटरी एजेण्डा में एप्रोप्रिएशन बिल आ जाते हैं और हमको कहा जाता है कि इसको पास करिए अभी । ऐसा क्यों? रेगुलर एजेण्डा में इनको यों नहीं रखा जाता? . . . (**व्यवधान**) . . . जब यह मालूम है कि होना है, पास करना है तो इसको रेगुलर एजेण्डा में रखकर पहले क्यों नहीं दिया गया?

उपसभापति : माथुर साहब, आप इस हाऊस के बड़े पुराने मेम्बर हैं, समझदार हैं । आपको पता है, आपने शायद सुना होगा, मैसेज जितने बजे आएगा लोकसभा से उसके बाद ही उसकी सप्लीमेंटरी डिमांड निकलेगी, जब मैसेज ही नहीं आया और अगर वहां से नहीं आता आज, तो क्या करते? . . .

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : यही मैं अर्ज कर रहा हूं, मैडम, कि सरकार की जिम्मेदारी है कि जल्दी पास करवाती।

उपसभापति : अब वह सरकार की क्या जिम्मेदारी है उस हाऊस में, वह मुझे नहीं मालूम । जैसे ही उस हाऊस से पास होकर आया, लोकसभा से आज सुबह रिपोर्ट हुआ . . . (**व्यवधान**) . . . एक मिनट, बैठिए, बैठिए प्लीज । . . . (**व्यवधान**) . . . देखिए, एप्रोप्रिएशन बिल जब लोकसभा से पास आज सुबह हुआ . . . (**व्यवधान**) . . .

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : कल हो गया था ।

उपसभापति : एक मिनट, बैठिए, माथुर साहब । आप जरा शान्त रहेंगे तो बहुत अच्छा होगा । आज सुबह रिपोर्ट हुआ हाऊस में । जब आज रिपोर्ट हुआ, इसलिए जरूरत पड़ी वरना कभी ऐसा होता नहीं है । अगर वह कल शाम को रिपोर्ट हो गया होता, अगर हम लोग बैठ होते वहां से पास होने के बाद तक और मैसेज आ जाता तो हम मैसेज रिपोर्ट करते ।

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : मैडम, मैं आपकी नहीं, सरकार की गलती बता रहा हूं ।

उपसभापति : अब यह सरकार की गलती, सरकार की जिम्मेदारी उस हाऊस में क्या है, मुझे नहीं मालूम । . . . (**व्यवधान**) . . .

श्री सिकन्दर बख्त : मोहतरमा, अभी माथुर साहब ने जो बात कही है, उसका ताल्लुक राज्यसभा के सेक्रेटरिएट से नहीं है। यह पहले क्यों नहीं कराया ? यह बड़ी अजीबो-गरीब चीज है कि हर चीज आखिर में आती है।... (**व्यवधान**)

†[شری سکندر بخت : محترمہ ابھی ماتھر صاحب نے جو بات کہی ہے اس کا تعلق راجیہ سبھا کے سیکریٹری ایٹ سے نہیں ہے - یہ پہلے کیوں نہیں کرایا - یہ بڑی عجیب و غریب چیز ہے کہ ہر چیز آخر میں آتی ہے ..(داخلت)..]

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : एक महीना हो गया, एप्रोप्रिएशन बिल पास नहीं कराया।... (**व्यवधान**)...

श्री सुरेश पचौरी : महोदया, आपने निर्देश दिए थे कि 6 बजे महामहिम राष्ट्रपति द्वारा मनोनीत सदस्यों की शपथ होगी।

उपसभापति : ले रहे हैं। हर बात पर आपत्ति मत उठाया कीजिए, ऐसा लगेगा कि हमको दुनिया की कोई बात अच्छी नहीं लगती सिवाय आपत्ति के।

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी (पश्चिमी बंगाल) : मैडम, सीकर की घटनाओं पर भी स्पष्टीकरण होने हैं, वह कार्यावलि में दर्ज है, वे कब होंगे ? 8 बजे अगर नर्मदा पर होगा तो सीकर पर कब होगा ?

उपसभापति : हम लोग 12 बजे तक बैठ सकते हैं, किसने मना किया है बैठने को।

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी : कब होगा ? जो कार्यावलि में दर्ज है सीकर पर, वह नहीं होगा, पहले नर्मदा होगा, वह कब होगा ?

उपसभापति : नर्मदा होगा, सीकर होगा, एक दूसरा स्टटमेंट आने वाला है तमिलनाडु के बारे में, जो लोक सभा में हुआ, वह सब होगा। बैठेंगे हम लोग, क्या है। बहुत-बहुत, रात-रात भर बैठे हैं हम। काम करने में क्या है।

श्री सिकन्दर बख्त : सदर साहिबा, नय यह हुआ है कि हाउस एडजार्न 26 तारीख को होगा, आप इसको 27 तारीख या 28 तारीख तक ले जाना चाहती हैं ?

†[شری سکندر بخت: صدر صاحبہ طے یہ ہوا ہے کہ ہاوس ایڈ جورن ۲۶ تاریخ کو ہوگا - آپ اسکو ۲۷ تاریخ یا ۲۸ تاریخ تک لے جانا چاہتی ہیں -]

उपसभापति : मैं इतना आपको आश्वासन देती हूं कि मैं 11 बजकर 59 मिनट पर एडजार्न करवा दूंगी, उससे पहले।... (**व्यवधान**)..

I will be within my limit.

श्री विट्ठलभाई मोतीराम पटेल : जब इलेक्टिड मैम्बर ने ओथ ली तब भी प्राइम मिनिस्टर नहीं आए थे तो आज कैसे आयेंगे ?

उपसभापति : मुझे इत्तिला मिली है, आ रहे हैं तो खुशी की बात है। प्राइम मिनिस्टर हमारे हाउस में रोज रहें तो हम खुश होंगे। हम तो चाहते हैं कि कोई ओथ न ले तब भी प्राइम मिनिस्टर रोज आवें। वे रहते हैं तो अच्छा रहता है, कोई बुरी बात है ? अब मैं सोलंकी जी को बुला सकती हूं ?... (**व्यवधान**)..

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: What is extrarodinary here? What is extraordinary for the presenec of the P.M.?

उपसभापति : अभी तो सोलंकी जी बोल रहे हैं। That is extraordinary.

SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: What explanation does he want as to why the P.M. is coming? Why are you raising such things?

†[] Transliteration in Arabic Script.

†[] Transliteration in Arabic Script.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Don't take the time of Mr. Solanki. I have called him.

ये लोग इतने दिन इंतजार कर रहे थे, दो मिनट और करने लेंगे । बोलिये सोलंकी जी ।

SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI (Gujarat) Before I start with the particular Bill, I would like to bring to your notice that when our name is at Sl. No. 1, and if somebody else is to speak, I have no objection for Mr. Gujral to speak but at least the Chair should inform us.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Vice-Chairman allowed it. I don't know.

श्री गोपाल सिंह जी सोलंकी : गुजराल साहब के सामने हमारा कोई आब्जेक्शन नहीं रहा ।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There must have been some reason, as Gujral Saheb explained. The Vice-Chairman was presiding. Let us not become so quarrelsome over such small things.

5—10 मिनट में क्या फर्क पड़ता है

श्री मोहम्मद अफजल उर्फ मीम अफजल : मैडम, ओथ का क्या होगा?

†[شری محمد افضل عرف م- افضل : میڈم - اوتھ کا کیا ہوگا ۔]

उपसभापति होगा । अभी इनको बैठने दीजिये ।

श्री मोहम्मद अफजल उर्फ मीम अफजल : मैडम, मेरा एक प्वाइंट आफ आर्डर है ।

†[صری محمد افضل عرف م- افضل : میرا ایک پوائنٹ آف آرڈر ہے ۔]

†[ ] Transliteration in Arabic Script.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

I am not allowing any point of order or disorder.

बोलिये न सोलंकीजी । प्लीज, सब गड़बड़ी हो रही है ।

श्रीमती कमला सिन्हा (बिहार) : आप ने तो कहा था 6 बजे ओथ होगा ?

उपसभापति : हां, मैंने कहा था । सोलंकी जी, आप बोलिये । . . (व्यवधान) . .

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : मैडम, ऐसा तो नहीं है कि ज्योतिष के अनुसार 6 बजकर कुछ मिनट पर होना है ? अगर ऐसा है तो बता दीजिए । . . .

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please be serious sometimes.

श्री मोहम्मद अफजल उर्फ मीम अफजल : वगैर ओथ लिये कोई मेंबर बैठ सकता है ।

†[شری محمد افضل عرف م- افضل : بغیر اوتھ لئے کوئی ممبر بیٹھ سکتا ہے ۔]

उपसभापति : हां, बैठ सकता है । ओथ ले रहे हैं । बोलिये सोलंकी जी ।

SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Madam, this Bill has been brought forward to replace the Ordinance promulgated by the President on 2nd July, 1993. This Bill seeks to provide for the transfer and vesting of the undertaking of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission to and in the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited, a company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto and also to repeal the Oil and Natural Gas Commission, Act, 1959. Now, before I start... (Interruptions).

†[] Transliteration in Arabic Script.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Madam, Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta was objecting why we were waiting for the Prime Minister. He himself has gone out and brought the Prime Minister.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He was objecting as to why he had not been asked to get the Prime Minister.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I was objecting only because the Prime Minister has more important work to do and why should he spend time on this. This was my objection.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Rajya Sabha is also an important House.

SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Madam, in our democratic functioning, this Bill must have established a record of sorts in that that this is the 28th Ordinance which has been promulgated during the inter-Session period. I would like to point out that this constitutional right has to be exercised only in exceptional circumstances.

In regard to the Oil and Natural Gas Commission, the Kaul Committee was set up in January, 1992. This Committee submitted one report in September, 1992, and the final report was submitted in November, 1992. These reports were taken into consideration by the Government on 1st February, 1993. Then, we had the Budget Session. Therefore, during the Budget Session, this Bill ought to have been brought. But unfortunately, after considering the reports, the Government did not come forward with a Bill on the matter. The Kaul Committee was not the only Committee which was constituted for this purpose. Before it, a high-powered Committee was also constituted in 1971. This Committee also felt that some restructuring was required in respect of the Commission| Therefore, it is not that this has come spontaneously.

Now, I do not know why they thought it fit to promulgate this Ordinance. I would say that this is a misuse of the Constitution. It is a misuse of the constitutional power. In fact, this is nothing but fascism. The Government thinks that what they speak is nothing but law. They have their own brand of democracy.

Coming to the question of conversion, so far as the objective are concerned, so far as the purpose is concerned, they are the same. The objective of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission Act, 1959, was to plan and organise exploration of oil and development of petroleum products. Similarly, in converting this Commission into a Corporation, the same purpose is laid down. We do not find any new objectives. We do not find any new sections. When we compare the existing legis'ation, i.e. the Oil and Natural Gas Commission Act, and this new Bill, we find that almost all sections are similar. The only change that is there is that this Commission is being incorporated as a Company under the Companies Act, 1956. At the same time, I would like to submit that the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has not done anything from the year 1959. They have not explored the sources. Only 13 per cent sources have been explored. So far as the question of reservation quota is concerned it has not been surveyed throughout the nation. We find that its organisation is having more than 48,000 employees, out of which 18000 employees are working on contract basis. What about the safety or security of those 18000 employees who are going to be unemployed? Will the Governmnent give us some assurance about them? In one of the meetings of the employees union, they have expressed the fear that they are going to be retrenched. Will this system of working on contract basis be continued after the Commission is converted into a Public Limited Company? I would like the hon. Minister to clarify this point.

Similarly, as per the constitution of Corporations bureaucrats are appointed as managing chairmen of these Corporations. Particulary, IAS officers look for

[Shri Gopal Singh G. Solanki]

an opportunity to become chairmen of such Corporations so that they do not have any accountability. That is the reason why our public sectors today are suffering losses. And that is the reason why this Bill has been brought forward under the pressure of the World Bank the Asian Development Bank behind the curtain.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There are two speakers from your party.

SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: At present, there is the trend of privatisation, but we have come across one incident in Gujarat State. One NRI of the Parmar Refinery and was granted a letter of intent, in the first instance, for Rs. 8 crores and then it was extended to Rs. 45 crores. The man belongs to the Parmar Refinery and the Parmar Petroleum Products. He started collecting fees of Rs. 500 per form for dealership. He also collected a deposit of Rs. 1 lakh each form 5000 consumers. In this way, there is a great scandal in Gujarat State, near Surat. More than Rs. 4500 crores have been grabbed. When the persons who have deposited the money go to the Parmar company, they are told that the person is not there. They are given telephone numbers of Netherland, Switzerland and England, but when the depositors contact on those telephone numbers, they are told that this person is not available on those numbers. Hon Prime Minister is here. I would request him to order an enquiry into this particular scandal.

At the same time, the Government should provide security to the concerned employees. Clause 8 of the Bill says that there will be option for the employees and officers. If they opt to continue in the Corporation, their services will be continued and at a particular instance of terminations they will have no claim. If such a thing is going to take place, it will create unemployment. So, I would like to seek clarifications from the Minister on these points.

With this I support the Bill.

MEMBERS SWORN

Dr. M. Aram (Nominated)

Shrimati Vyjayantimala Bali (Nominated)

Dr. Bidhu Bhushan Dutta (Nominated)

Shri Maulana Habib-ur-Rehman Numani (Nominated)

Shri Mahendra Prasad (Nominated)

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम (उत्तर प्रदेश): नये माननीय सदस्यों का हम स्वागत करते हैं । लेकिन जानकारी के लिये आप से यह जानना चाहते हैं कि वे किन-किन क्षेत्रों के विशेषज्ञ हैं ।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please, please, order in the House.

आज जिन्होंने हाउस में ओथ लीहै, पूरा हाउस यहां पर उनका वेलकम करता है ।

We welcome all those Members, and we hope that their entry into our House will enrich the deliberations in the House. We wish them full participation in our deliberations. I hope, as Members nominated by the President, they will bring some wisdom and peace.

गौतम जां, आप उनके बारे में उनके बायोडाटा में पढ़ लीजिये ।

SHRI P. UPENDRA (Andhra Pradesh): More wisdom.

I. Statutory resolution seeking disapproval of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (transfer of undertaking and repeal) ordinance, 1993

II. The Oil and Natural Gas Commission (transfer of undertaking and repeal) Bill, 1993—Contd.